

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: GOI'S CHIEF CENSOR SPEAKS TO ISCUS IN AHMEDABAD

1. INDIAN EXPRESS THIS MORNING 24TH CARRIES AHMEDABAD STORY ON
STATEMENTS MADE BY UNION MIN INFORMATION AND CHIEF CENSOR,
V.C. SHUKLA, AT A SYMPOSIUM HELD IN AHMEDABAD ON FOURTH
ANNIVERSARY OF ISCUS. GUJARAT PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE
PRESIDENT SOLANKI ALSO SPOKE ON THIS OCCASION.

2. SHUKLA SAID "INDIA WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO THWART THE ILL-
DESIGNS OF THE IMPERIALIST FORCES TO HALT THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS.
THE IMPERIALISTS HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN TOPPLING VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN
THE WORLD AND SUCH FORCES WERE VISIBLE IN INDIA ALSO, BUT OUR
PEOPLE ARE UNITED TO FACE THEM." GOES ON SAY THAT IN REACTING
STRONGLY AGAINST THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SHELTERING SUCH FORCES,
SHUKLA SAID "THEY HAD BEEN PROPAGATING AGAINST OUR FRIENDSHIP
WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH...WAS WITHOUT STRINGS."

3. FOR REST ARTICLE ATTRIBUTES TO SHUKLA FULSOME REMARKS ON
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INDO-SOVIET TIES AS WELL COMMENT THAT "INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

HAD STRENGTHENED ITSELF CREATING STABILITY AND PEACE IN ASIA AND
SO LONG AS THIS FRIENDSHIP LASTED, NO POWER WOULD BE ALLOWED TO
HAVE ITS STRONGHOLD IN THE REGION."

4. COMMENT: TO EXTENT PRESS ACCURATELY REPORTING SHUKLA'S
STATEMENTS, THERE IS LITTLE BASIS TO HOPE THAT HE IS LIKELY TO
CAUTION PRESS ON ALLEGATIONS OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN INDIA'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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